

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 22-0045V

UNPUBLISHED

JILL GARDNER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 2, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Tetanus Diphtheria acellular  
Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine; Brachial  
Neuritis

*Jimmy A. Zgheib, Zgheib Sayad, P.C., White Plains, NY, for Petitioner.*

*Parisa Tabbassian, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES**<sup>1</sup>

On January 13, 2022, Jill Gardner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered brachial neuritis as a result of a Tdap vaccination she received on February 16, 2021. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On October 17, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her brachial neuritis. On February 1, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$96,175.91, representing \$85,000.00 in pain and suffering, \$3,683.66 in unreimbursed expenses, and \$7,492.25 in lost wages. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$96,175.91**, representing \$85,000.00 in pain and suffering, \$3,683.66 in unreimbursed expenses, and \$7,492.25 in lost wages **in the form of a check payable to Petitioner**. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

JILL GARDNER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 22-45V

Chief Special Master Brian H. Corcoran  
ECF

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On January 13, 2022, Jill Gardner (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended (“the Vaccine Act” or “the Act”), 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34. Petitioner alleges that she received a tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (“Tdap”) vaccination on February 16, 2021, at fifty-three years of age, and thereafter suffered from a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) and/or brachial neuritis. *See* Petition. On October 17, 2022, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a brachial neuritis injury, and on October 17, 2022, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 17; ECF No. 18.

**I. Items of Compensation**

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$85,000.00 in pain and suffering. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that she incurred past unreimbursable expenses related to her vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$3,683.66. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B). Petitioner agrees.

C. Lost Wages

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that she incurred past lost wages related to her vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past lost wages in the amount of \$7,492.25. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(3)(A). Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following<sup>1</sup>: a lump sum payment of \$96,175.91, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

**III. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment**

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Jill Gardner:	<b>\$96,175.91</b>
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Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future, unreimbursed expenses, future lost earnings and future pain and suffering.

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
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Torts Branch, Civil Division

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s/ PARISA TABASSIAN  
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DATED: February 1, 2023